

## Co-President's Message



As FaceBook often does, a memory photo appeared in my account. The photo above was five years ago when I went to the AAUW National convention in Washington, D.C. and was among a delegation that met U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein.

I hope you were able to attend the Zoom celebration of Title IX's 50th Anniversary with AAUW CEO, Gloria L. Blackwell. I encourage you to read this article on the national website, as mentioned during the Event: <https://www.aauw.org/act/policy-center/50-years-title-ix/>

Do not feel discouraged by the overturning of Roe v. Wade. Feel pissed off and ready to take action! We have worked hard for our small gains, which are being ripped from us mostly by politicians who identify as male. Don't forget we have the power to elect supporters of women's

rights. There's no greater impetus to vote than this. Pay attention to what our political leaders say and do. Most of all, hold them accountable.

We've had many accomplishments this year that we shared at our Annual Luncheon on June 25th. It was wonderful seeing long-time friends and meeting our future leaders who are in high school and college and already making a difference.

As PRIDE month is ending I am sharing education about LGBTQ African Americans we should all know:

<https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/stories/five-trailblazers-you-should-know-pride-edition>

I also want to share this webinar on African American STEM professionals on July 22 and August 19, respectively:

<https://nmaahc.si.edu/events/through-window-and-mirror-narratives-african-american-stem-professionals-isabel-rodriguez>

<https://nmaahc.si.edu/events/through-window-and-mirror-narratives-african-american-stem-professionals-dr-k-reen-ee-horton>

We hope to see you at our annual planning meeting on July 30 at 10 a.m., via Zoom. Look in your email for more details as the time gets closer.

Wishing you a safe and Happy Summer!

**Kelly Joseph, Co-President**

### Annual Branch Membership Luncheon

To spice up our Zoom lunch meeting, we emailed Grubhub gift cards to members who registered so they could have lunch on us (the branch)! Those who participated were delighted, and we got to see some familiar faces. Besides visiting with each other, we reviewed the year's activities and accomplishments through a slide presentation prepared by our own dynamo, Rosaura Valle. Below is a recap:

1. Our new Avanti editor intern is Caitlin Dainas, who took over after 14 plus years of service by Corrine Sacks. We are grateful to both of them. Email Caitlin should you have any items for an Avanti issue. Don't forget that the deadline for submissions is the 25th of each month.
2. Kelly Joseph led our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) program that included reading and discussing four books — Caste by Isabel Wilkerson; Four Hundred Souls by Ibram Kendi and Keisha Blain; Color of Law by Richard Rothstein; and I know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou.
3. The branch is sending 15 girls to Tech Trek Camp this summer, including residential and virtual camps. We had a very successful send-off party for them and their families on May 21 at the Sports Basement Community Room.
4. A Tech Trek Alumnae Group (TTAG) is up and running under the able leadership of Rosaura Valle. A number of workshops and meetings have been held to address the girls' interests and needs. Rosaura also organized our participation in the Bay Area Science Festival with a panel discussion and an exhibit.
5. We awarded two Silver Jubilee scholarships of \$3,000 each to two upper division college students.
6. Our branch sponsored the presentation of the HBO documentary, LFG, showcasing the U.S. Women's Soccer Team in their fight for equal pay. We invited neighboring AAUW branches to join us for the viewing.

7. Finally, our branch was recognized at the AAUW California Annual Event as being the top contributor in both dollar and per capita amount to the national AAUW Fund. Despite the pandemic, we have been on the move!

### Dues

If you haven't already renewed your membership, now is the time. Our membership year runs from July 1 to June 30. The dues for this year are \$88. \$64 of that amount is tax-deductible. If you have trouble navigating the newly formulated national website, you can always write a check for \$88 to AAUW-SF and mail it to Corrine Sacks whose address is in the directory.

### Roe v. Wade

I'm sad and angry beyond measure at what the U.S. Supreme Court has done. It is appalling that women are being deprived of their reproductive rights. The right to bodily integrity is crucial for gender equity.

Stay in the fight!

**Barbara Spencer, Co-President**

### Roe V. Wade is Overturned



The Supreme Court officially overturned Roe v. Wade, ending the constitutionally protected right to abortion after fifty years. In response to the ruling, California

declared a joint commitment with Oregon and Washington, maintaining access to abortion and contraceptives. In contrast, thirteen states have trigger laws that will ban these procedures immediately or in the nearby future, and eleven more states are likely to ban abortion in the coming months/year. The concern lies within the other cases involving rights to privacy, like same sex marriage, which may be reconsidered next. The overturning of Roe v. Wade will also disproportionately affect people of color, who make up 60% of those obtaining abortions. For example, Black women are three to four times more likely to die in childbirth than white women, and forcing births will put even more financial burdens on minority groups in low income communities. This time is one of uncertainty; it is vital to remain aware and ready to take action.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/06/24/briefing/roe-v-wade-abortion-supreme-court-guns.html>

<https://www.npr.org/2022/05/09/1096840071/striking-down-roe-v-wade-will-hit-people-of-color-hardest-activists-say>

**Caitlin Dainas, Avanti Editor Intern**

### **Silver Jubilee Fund Scholarships**

The SF Silver Jubilee Fund gives scholarships to women pursuing their higher education with three thousand dollars. This money is used for the following academic year, 2022-2023. This year we are well represented by two students, Tori Suter and Erial Pierre.

**Tori Suter:** Both of our recipients are majoring in anthropology. Tori Suter is a junior at Sonoma State University and plans on future schooling to finish a doctoral program. She is focused on completing her degree in bioarcheology and forensic anthropology. Tori knows that she can help others through her forensics. To gain knowledge in her field, she is going on her first

forensic internship to Romania in July. Tori will use the scholarship to replace her jobs and continue her education.

**Erial Pierr:** Erial is majoring in cultural anthropology. After graduating from SFSU she wants to continue her education in the doctoral program and become a professor. She wishes to use her life experiences to bridge the cultural gaps of the past. Erial wants black and brown students to have professors who look like them and have similar experiences. With some of her scholarship, it is also important to place her toddler in preschool and to buy books.

**Mary Suter, Silver Jubilee Fund Chair**

### **Board Planning Meeting**

We will be holding our annual Board Planning Meeting on July 30 at 10 AM on Zoom. All members interested in attending should contact Barbara to obtain the Zoom link.

### **Friday Afternoon with Books Group**

**Date:** July 15, 2022, at 1:30 PM

**Location:** ZOOM

**Book/Author:** The Center Cannot Hold, by Elyn R. Saks

**Zoom coordinator:** Michelle Mammini

### **Mystery/Adventure Book Group**

**Date/Time:** July 28 at 7:30 PM

**Location:** ZOOM

**Book/Author:** Missing, Presumed, by Susie Steiner

**Reviewer:** Harriet Sollod

**RSVP:** please RSVP to receive the Zoom link by contacting Elaine Butler

Please make a list of your favorite mystery and/or adventure books to recommend at the September meeting. New members are always welcomed.

### STEM Saturday



**Date:** July 16th, 11 am - 4 pm

**Location:** Potrero Hill Neighborhood House  
953 De Haro Street  
San Francisco, CA 94107

2nd Annual STEM Saturday! We are tabling - come & say hello! This is a neighborhood festival with exciting and hands-on STE(A)M activities that will inspire young people to become future STEM leaders. Find more information at <https://www.stemsaturdaysf.com>.

### Tech Trek

Six girls attended a week at CSU Fresno, and they returned yesterday. I can't wait to hear about their experiences! We will hear about their week at UC Davis and the week of their Virtual Camp. We will give you the date of our Welcome Party and whether it will be by ZOOM or in person. I hope we will be able to gather in person.

**Elaine Butler, Tech Trek Coordinator**

### Strong Southern Women



In recent years, ongoing historical research has turned up strong evidence that many more Southern women took active roles in support of the Confederacy during the Civil War than was previously known. Some were nurses in makeshift hospitals under horrific conditions, Others raised money to fund their troops, while others defended their homes from marauding soldiers while trying to keep their property under cultivation without many men folk. Some women activists were so defiant that Union officers had no choice but to ignore the era's chivalric attitudes and arrest them. Elizabeth Waring Duckett, for instance, a Maryland resident was jailed in Washington's Old Capitol Prison for a month in 1863 because of her Southern sympathies and presumed treason. After her release, she continued to help Confederates in the prisoner-of-war camps. She worked for the release of her father and brother, even lobbying President Lincoln on their behalf. Another strong Southern woman was Betsy Sullivan, known as "Mother Sullivan" by the soldiers for whom she cared. A soldier's wife, she had gone with him to the Tennessee battlefields. She marched on foot and slept on the frozen ground. When her husband was wounded and taken prisoner, she went with him to the prisoner-of-war camp, helping with nursing chores. Bettie Taylor Philipps had a similar experience caring for the wounded and dying on several battlefields including Shiloh. Some Southern women took on the roles of smugglers or

thieves crossing enemy lines to steal Union supplies or provisions. Caught with two calvary rifles under her dress, Mrs. William Kirby was sentenced to prison where she later died due to harsh conditions. Spies, such as Belle Boyd and Rose Greenhow, took great risks to provide useful information such as enemy troop movements.

It is believed that more Southern women experienced the ravages of war more intimately, given that the South had a smaller population and were for the most part, fighting on their home ground. Perhaps the best tribute to the activism of Southern women was made by an "enemy" when Union General Shields wrote to Secretary of War Stanton in 1862 saying that reinforcements were imperative but, "I can retake the Shenandoah Valley, but you must send men to keep it. The women will take it if we don't."



[www.lamucc-ir-tdl.org](http://www.lamucc-ir-tdl.org)  
[www.encopass.eku.edu](http://www.encopass.eku.edu)  
[www.perryvillebattlefield.org](http://www.perryvillebattlefield.org)

**Pat Camarena**

### Playing Now

I'm not a big fan of rock musicals, so I groaned when I saw that Hadestown was part of this season's BroadwaySF series, to which I subscribe. FYI – Broadway SF is what used to be Best of Broadway, and all the way back to when I arrived in SF, it was The Civic Light Opera.

At all events, John and I went to see Hadestown. And I'm very glad we did, because it was magnificent. What, you may ask, was so magnificent? Well, the talented players, the music, the set, the costumes, the lighting – and the not so subtle references to current politics – in short – everything.

A combination of two Greek myths, we get the stories of Persephone, and of Orpheus and Euridice. In both cases Hades, who is the King of Hadestown, falls in love with the girl and kidnaps her to be his bride in Hadestown. Orpheus wants to get Euridice back because they are in love. The world needs Persephone back because she controls the seasons. (Her mother Ceres is the goddess of all cereal and grain growth.)

The show switches locale to Hades. It's a stark, grim place. The workers wear oppressive headgear, much like underground miners. They sing about the wall they are being forced to build. "Why do we need a wall? "Because they want to get in." "Why do they want to get in?" "Because they want what we have." Ring any bells for you, dear readers?

What happens follows the myths – Persephone is allowed to return to earth. Orpheus is told he can take Euridice back with him, but with the caveat that she must walk the rough road behind him, not by his side. He must not ever turn around to look at her. The evil Hades says this is a test of faith – the Orpheus has to prove his faith in

Euridice that she will follow him. But it's a trick. The road is bad, and Orpheus fears his love may trip, or fall. Eventually he turns to check on her and Hades instantly sweeps her up and takes her back to Hades. Orpheus returns to earth alone. The lovers are separated forever. It's really a powerful scene -- a person sitting behind us in the audience was audibly sobbing at this point.

The locale switches to earth – there is general joy at the return of Persephone, and sorrow for Eurydice's now permanent place in Hades. The audience cheers, and rises en-masse for a standing ovation.

FYI -- the plot is true to the Greek myths. I wonder what, if anything, may have been the connection between the Orpheus and Euridice myth and the biblical tale of Lot's wife, who although warned not to look back at Sodom as she flees it, does so, and is turned into a pillar of salt.

Hadestown is closing soon, but I've reviewed it because it's too good to miss, and there are a number of touring companies all over the Bay area. You can Google to find a theater near you where it's playing. And it's so very, very worth seeing.

Postscript: Just got back from seeing Prom, at the Golden Gate Theater. No need for me to review it. I'll just say don't go – unless you're at the age of eagerly anticipating your own prom. If you're over the age of 16, this isn't a show for you.

**Paula Campbell**

### July Birthdays

<b>Bickley Simpson</b>	July 9
<b>Sheila Bost</b>	July 14
<b>Elaine Butler</b>	July 19



**AAUWSF Board**

**Contact Us:**  
[aauwsfbranch@gmail.com](mailto:aauwsfbranch@gmail.com)

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 Elaine Butler

**Tech Trek Alumnae Group (TTAG) Coordinator**  
 Rosaura Valle

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Coordinator:**  
 Kelly Joseph

**July 2022**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 TTAG Meeting @7:30 pm	14	15 Afternoon Book Group @1:30 pm	16 STEM Saturday @11 am - 4 pm
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
26	27 TTAG Meeting @7:30 pm	28 Mystery Adventure Book Group @7:30 pm	29	30 Annual Planning Meeting @10 am		

*Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind.*

**Dr Suess**

**Avanti Editor**

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 Address Correction Requested

The American Association of University Women (AAUW), founded in 1881, is the nation’s leading organization advocating equality for women and girls. It has a national membership of 150,000. People of every race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, and level of physical ability are invited to join.

AAUW California was launched in San Francisco in 1886 and began lobbying immediately. Check out our website [www.aauwsf.org](http://www.aauwsf.org)



**AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research**

**Marie Curie & AAUW**

The year was 1919. Europe had been ravaged by World War I and radium was far too expensive for a scientist of modest means to afford for experiments. This was true even for one as famous as Madame Marie Curie. As a result, her groundbreaking research had reached a virtual standstill.

Then the AAUW came to the rescue. Members from Maine to California helped raise an astonishing \$156,413, enabling Madame Curie to purchase one gram of radium and continue her experiments that helped her create the field of nuclear chemistry and forever change the course of science. Madame Curie received the Nobel Prize for her work, but was not admitted to the French *Academie des Sciences* until she won an incredible second Nobel Prize...all because she was a woman. More than 75 years later, there are still only three women members.

**Pay Equity**

AAUW has been on the front lines fighting for Pay Equity for over a hundred years.

AAUW was there in the Oval Office in 1963 when President John F. Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act into law.

AAUW was there in 2009 when President Barack Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act into law.

AAUW continues the fight for the passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act to ensure women have further equal pay protections. The pay gap is real.

AAUW will continue the fight to achieve pay equity; the economic security of American families depends on it.

**Legal Advocacy Fund**

Founded in 1981, the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) works to achieve equity for women in higher education by recognizing indicative efforts to improve the climate for women on campus; by offering assistance to women faculty, staff, and students who have grievances against colleges and universities; and by supporting sex discrimination lawsuits.

The LAF Board only approves support of cases which are currently involved in litigation, and that have the potential to set legal precedent.

The Legal Advocacy Fund’s annual Progress in Equity Award recognizes indicative and replicable college and university programs.